United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- President of Security Council, in statement on behalf of Council members, condemns "tragic incident" in Yugoslavia in which helicopters of European Community Monitoring Mission are shot down by Yugoslav aircraft, killing five Mission members; calls on all parties to Yugoslav conflict to respect their cease-fire commitments.

- Secretary-General deplores death of five European Community Observers in incident in Yugoslavia today.

- Secretary-General proposes that mandate of United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia be expanded to include training in mine clearance and de-mining programme, at additional cost of $24.7 million.

- Discussions on calendar for implementation of New York agreements on El Salvador, signed on 31 December, continue at Headquarters.

- Committee on Palestinian Rights condemns Israel's decision to continue its deportations of Palestinians from occupied territory.

- World Food Programme resumes crucial airlift of food supplies to displaced Sudanese in southern town of Wau.

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The President of the Security Council, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom, condemned today, in a statement on behalf of Council members, the "tragic incident" that occurred in Yugoslavia earlier today, in which helicopters of the European Community Monitoring Mission in that country were shot down by a Yugoslav aircraft, killing four Italian members and one French member of that Mission.

The Council called on the Yugoslav authorities to take all steps necessary to ensure that the act "would not go unpunished" and that such incidents "would not occur again".

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Calling the incident a "callous attack on unarmed civilian personnel", the members of the Council reiterated their urgent call on all parties to the conflict in Yugoslavia to respect their cease-fire commitments. They noted that the Yugoslav authorities had accepted responsibility for the "flagrant breach of cease-fire", had said that they would take the necessary disciplinary action against those responsible, and had reiterated their commitment to observe the cease-fire fully.

The members of the Council further expressed their deep appreciation for the work done by members of the Mission and called on the Yugoslav parties to ensure that Mission members and United Nations personnel be allowed to fulfil their role with the full cooperation of all sides.

The Council will hold a formal meeting tomorrow afternoon to consider a draft resolution on the Secretary-General's proposal to send 50 military liaison officers to Yugoslavia. The Council will then hold a second formal meeting on the Secretary-General's proposal to expand the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deplored the death of five European Economic Community (EEC) Observers aboard one of two helicopters shot down over Yugoslavia today.

In a statement this afternoon, the Secretary-General said he was shocked and grieved to hear of the tragic incident, which, he said, "vividly demonstrated the need to redouble the efforts underway to bring peace back to Yugoslavia".

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The Secretary-General has proposed that the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) be expanded to include training in mine clearance and the initiation of a de-mining programme, at an additional cost of $24.7 million.

In an addendum to his report on Cambodia to the Security Council, dated 6 January, the Secretary-General stated that UNAMIC would need an additional 1,090 military personnel to carry out the new responsabilities. The proposed expansion would take into account a phased deployment of the military and civilian personnel beginning mid-January.

The Secretary-General further recommended, should the Security Council decide to expand UNAMIC's mandate, that the additional cost relating thereto be considered an expense to the Organization to be borne by Member States of the United Nations.
(S/23331/add.1)

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Discussions to focus on the calendar for the implementation of the New York agreements on El Salvador, signed on 31 December, were continuing at Headquarters today.

Also under discussion are the modalities and procedures for ending the military structure of the Frente Farabundo Martí Para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

Yesterday, the delegations of the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN met jointly and separately throughout the day, with the participation of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali would travel to Mexico City on 16 January for the signing of the agreements on El Salvador.

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The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has condemned the decision by Israel, the occupying Power, to continue its deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory.

In a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday, the acting Chairman of the Committee, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, addressed an urgent appeal to the Secretary-General, as well as all the parties concerned, to see that "all the necessary measures were taken" in order to induce Israel to desist forthwith from deporting the twelve Palestinians and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of those deported.
(A/46/837, S/23374)

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has recommended the resumption of some 1,000 tonnes of food aid for 150,000 displaced Sudanese people living in the Southern town of Wau, the state capital of Bahr-El-Ghazal.

The decision to airlift food into the area follows a four-month interruption of services by the WFP and other relief organizations after an ICRC chartered aircraft was destroyed last September by a landmine on the Wau runway and the explosion badly injured several crew members.

According to the Agency, food supplies have reached near starvation levels due to ongoing clashes between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Sudanese Government forces. The Agency reports that security is still uncertain at Wau. However, WFP has arranged for two chartered planes to deliver food twice daily for the next two months.

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